

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TOCY, SV, US, NO

SUBJECT: SCIENTIFIC PROJECT ON SVALBARD

REFS: (A) OSLO 2203

(B) ONR 261748 7 APRIL 77

(C) USDAO OSLO 390 APRIL 77

1. DEPARTMENT FULLY ENDORSES PRINCIPLE OF INCREASED
SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY ON SVALBARD BUT SHARES EMBASSY'S
CAUTIONARY NOTE IN LIGHT OF EXTREME POLITICAL SENSITIVITY
SURROUNDING ANYTHING PERTAINING TO SPITZBERGEN
ARCHIPELAGO. IN THIS INSTANCE THE DIRECTOR OF THE
NORWEGIAN POLAR INSTITUTE, DR. GJELSVIK, AND DR. GADE
OF THE GEOPHYSICAL INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN, PARTI-
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CIPATED DURING THE PLANNING STAGES OF THE ONR PROJECT.
SUBJECT TO PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE NORWEGIAN
AUTHORITIES AND AN ON-THE-SCENE BRIEFING OF EMBASSY
POLITICAL STAFF BY PROJECT PARTICIPANTS, WE SEE NO PROBLEM
IN MOVING FORWARD WITH PROPOSED ONR RESEARCH PROJECT.

2. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND ON RESEARCH ASPECTS PROVIDED

FOR YOUR INFORMATION (PARTICIPANTS AND SUGGESTED ITINERARY SET FORTH REF B). ONR HAS PROVIDED FUNDS FOR PROJECT TO

THE COASTAL STUDIES INSTITUTE OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY TO STUDY ARCTIC OCEAN COASTAL AND NEAR SHORE OCEANOGRAPHY INCLUDING POLAR OCEAN FJORDS. MUCH OF THE FIELD WORK, INCLUDING RESEARCH, RECONNAISSANCE TRIPS AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT, WILL BE CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH NORWEGIAN SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL.

PROPOSAL IS 2 YEAR PROGRAM TO STUDY ARCTIC ROCKY COAST CIRCULATION PATTERNS AND MORPHOLOGY. FIRST YEAR'S EFFORT WILL BE PURSUED IN FOUR STAGES:

(A) TO CARRY OUT A LITERATURE SURVEY OF FJORD CIRCULATION AND MORPHOLOGY. IN PARTICULAR, LITERATURE ON THE MIXING PROCESSES ACROSS THE PYENOCLINE THAT DRIVE THE CHARACTERISTIC TWO-LAYERED FJORD CIRCULATION WILL BE EMPHASIZED.

(B) TO CARRY OUT A COASTAL RECONNAISSANCE OF SELECTED FJORD AREAS OF SVALBARD IN ORDER TO SELECT AN APPROPRIATE SITE FOR A 1978 FIELD PROGRAM.

(C) TO COLLATE REMOTE SENSING IMAGERY OF SVALBARD AND ASSESS ITS USEFULNESS IN DETERMINING FJORD CIRCULATION PATTERNS.

(D) THROUGH THE ABOVE TASKS, AND CONSULTATION WITH EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY AND INSTITUTE PERSONNEL WHO HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORKED IN SVALBARD, TO DEFINE A FIELD PROGRAM FOR 1978-79 THAT HAS A REALISTIC PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS.

3. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL BACKGROUND DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST IF YOU ARE INTERESTED. ONR WASHINGTON CONTACTS ARE L. JOHNSON OR R. MCGREGOR (692-4270). CHRISTOPHER

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